

Message Text

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 01 TUNIS 02703 191319Z

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EB-08 /019 W

-----191345Z 007365 /44

R 191126Z APR 77

FM AMEMBASSY TUNIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6468

USDOC WASHDC

INFO AMEMBASSY ALGIERS

AMCONSUL CASABLANCA

AMEMBASSY RABAT

AMCONSUL TANGIER

UNCLAS TUNIS 2703

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: BEXP, TS

SUBJ: PROPOSED ALABAMA MISSISSIPPI IOGA MISSION

REF: USDOC 6856

1. PROPOSED MISSION, IF ORGANIZED AROUND THEME OF AGRICULTURAL MACHINERY AND EQUIPMENT, COULD BE USEFUL FOLLOW-UP TO RECENT CATALOGUE SHOW ON SAME THEME. TUNISIAN MARKET FOR AGRICULTURAL EQUIPMENT IS PERENNIALY GOOD - AND IS BOLSTERED THIS YEAR BY GOT DECISION TO MAKE MAJOR ADDITIONS TO CEREALS STORAGE CAPACITY ON URGENT BASIS. STORAGE PROJECT ALONE ESTIMATED AT \$10 MILLION, AND GOT HAS REQUESTED USAID FINANCING. INTEREST AT FEBRUARY CATALOGUE SHOW WAS HIGH IN EQUIPMENT DISPLAYED VIA CATALOGUES AS WITNESSED BY ALMOST 1,000 INQUIRIES FOR FURTHER INFORMATION. ORGANIZATIONALLY, THE NATIONAL FARMERS ASSOCIATION (UNA) WOULD BE EXCELLENT CONTACT FOR MISSION MEMBERS. EMBASSY RELATIONS WITH UNA AND AG EQUIPMENT DEALERS ARE EXCELLENT.

2. OCTOBER DATE POSES SOME PROBLEMS AS EMBASSY WILL LIKELY BE HOSTING ANNUAL U.S.-TUNISIAN JOINT COMMISSION IN OCTOBER, AS WELL AS PLANNING FOR TSS IN ELECTRONIC DATA PROCESSING IN UNCLASSIFIED

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NOVEMBER. EXACT DATES FOR BOTH EVENTS NOT YET DETERMINED. WEEK BEFORE AND WEEK AFTER JOINT COMMISSION WOULD BE INAPPROPRIATE, AS WOULD WEEK PRECEDING TSS. OCTOBER 15 IS TUNISIAN HOLIDAY. SATURDAY AND SUNDAY COMPOSE WEEKEND.

3. POST HAS LITTLE EXPERIENCE WITH IOGA'S (ONLY THE ILL-FATED TENNESSEE GROUP IN NOVEMBER 1975) AND IS THUS UNFAMI-

LIAR WITH EXTENT OF DEMANDS PLACED ON EMBASSY. NEVERTHELESS,
WE ARE WILLING TO HOST SUBJECT MISSION AND PROVIDE AS MUCH ASSIS-
TANCE AS POSSIBLE, BUT WILL COUNT ON MISSION ORGANIZER TO
HANDLE MOST ADMINISTRATION ARRANGEMENTS.
MULCAHY

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Message Attributes

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Disposition Remarks:
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SAS ID: 2758170
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Status: NATIVE
Subject: PROPOSED ALABAMA MISSISSIPPI IOGA MISSION
TAGS: BEXP, TS
To: STATE COM
Type: TE
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